

CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE

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President's Desk

The New Year dawns on a world stricken with the horrors of a war greater than any that history records, yet to all our readers we extend the wish for a Happy New Year. For service to God and to country every one is called, and through service comes happiness. Who can doubt it when one sees the brave boys wounded and maimed, yet rejoicing that they could sacrifice for so great a cause? Who can doubt it when one sees the unanimity with which both men and women are working night and day, forgetting self in service?

Who can doubt it when one sees the splendid achievements of the national leaders in mobilizing a nation for international service? Mr. Hoover asks self denial of all of us that the allies may have food, for only through America can they have it. Mr. McAdoo asks economy and thrift, that labor may be given to supply of the clothing necessary to keep in comfort the brave men who risk all to serve the nation. The Red Cross asks it that the wounded and ill may have proper care. The Y. M. C. A. asks it, and asks not in vain. The Mothers' Congress asks it for the service it must do in this hour of need.

Every Parent-Teacher Association and Mothers' Circle is doing something, yet all can do more. Every needless expenditure of money should be abandoned, and every penny be spent for things that are vitally needed at this time. The prayers of all the people should be raised to God to guide us through the valley of death and destruction and set our feet on the upward way.

The biennial convention of the National Council of Women met in Washington, December 9-12. Thirty national organizations of women are included in the membership. The president or her proxy and four delegates form the quota of representatives from each organization, yet on these delegates rests the responsibility of representing a constituency of over seven million women. The presence of Lady Aberdeen, president of the International Council, added much to the interest. The international character of the meeting was further emphasized by the presence of a delegate from the Russian and Mexican Councils and a message from the Austrian Council.

Twenty-eight nations now have Councils of Women's organizations.

Lady Aberdeen disapproved of holding the International Congress before the end of the war, in order that every Council could participate. She especially urged the necessity for women of all nations to take up the questions of reconstruction after the war, without discussing mooted questions which would bring division. In this recommendation the delegates were unanimously in accord.

The entire convention was given to present war work, and to consideration of reconstruction after the war. National organizations were requested to report nothing but their war work, and department chairmen were requested to report measures for reconstruction as well as work done.

The venerable but enthusiastic leader of suffrage, Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, gave the opening prayer, and was one of the inspiring speakers. For forty-four years she had devoted her life to emancipation of women, and had lived to be assured of final victory for her cause.

Mrs. Philip N. Moore, the president of the Council, is to be congratulated for the remarkable and epochmaking program. A message from President Wilson and Secretary Daniels, whose duties prevented their attendance; earnest speeches of appeal from Mr. Hoover, Secretary McAdoo, former president Taft, Lord Eustace Percy of British High Commission, and Lieut.-Col. de Billy of the French High Commission, Mr. John Barrett, Director Pan-American Building, Jane Addams, Julia Lathrop, Mabel Boardman, Commissioner Claxton, Dr. Kate Waller Barrett, and others all brought the conviction of the need for loyalty, self-sacrifice and patriotic devotion of every man, woman or child.

The founders of the International Council builded more wisely than they knew when they or-

ganized the women of more than half the nations of the world for stated times of conference, for now as never before one can realize the power for service that can be wielded by the coming together of women of all nations to build up after the havoc of war.

The recommendation of the National Congress of Mothers was that parents and teachers in every country be organized and that they promote constructive education of children in home and school to regard the rights of others, and the rights of other nations; that every nation establish a Home Education Division, to provide suggestive helps for parents as well as teachers; that every Board of Health have a Department of Child Hygiene; that all institutions containing children be under supervision of State Departments of Education; that the care of erring children be under care of home and school, rather than courts, and that the scope of the school system be enlarged to cover all questions outside the home which relate to children of school age.

The National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations will hold its usual annual conference in connection with Department of Superintendence, N. E. A., February 26, in Atlantic

**Conference
National Congress
of Mothers in
Atlantic City,
February 26**

City, N. J. Members of the Congress will find these conferences of inestimable value in promotion of the Congress work throughout the states and all who can attend will be interested. It is largely through these conferences and the splendid coöperation that the Bureau of Education has given that the growth of Parent-Teacher Associations has been stimulated and the membership doubled in many places.

CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE is a promoter of membership, and a bond between the members. These are hard days for all publications. Increased cost of paper, increased postage, increased cost of labor, cutting down of incomes makes a vast difference to every magazine.

**Child-Welfare
Magazine, 1918**

Some old subscribers cannot renew their subscriptions because of need for economy. To those a free subscription will be given if they will send five new subscribers. Many other magazines are increasing their price. In order to maintain the same price CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE must have the coöperation of every association in membership.

The standard of excellence set by the National Board includes among other things at least ten subscriptions to CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE. Does your Parent-Teacher Association have that number? If not, will you appoint a committee to secure them?

Parent-Teacher Associations are organized to accomplish definite purposes by united effort. Officers and members who do not keep in touch with their leaders and co-workers lose much in inspiration and in profiting by experience of others. CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE in condensed space gives news in every number which is suggestive to others. Will you write the editors what you will do in securing wider reading and circulation?

Practical Ideas on Conservation of Clothing

By MARY L. STODDARD

The first exhibition of made over clothing ever held so far as we know was last April in Washington, D. C., during the Convention of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations. The idea was to demonstrate what can be done with two articles of men's wearing apparel heretofore considered useless, namely men's cast-off shirts and socks. There were thirty-four different styles of clothing made from the shirt, including ladies', boys' and girls' shirt waists, children's dresses, rompers, pajamas, jackets for men, children's and ladies' aprons, children's petticoats and drawers, bibs and caps, etc.

In making garments from the shirt we always try to use the buttons and the buttonholes, as they are, either for front or back of garment, thus saving time and work. Of course this is not always possible. Also turn best part of shirt where there will be most wear. Stockings for children were made from men's socks, and

stockings and tights for children from women's stockings.

That the exhibit met with approval has been fully demonstrated, as we have had calls for it not only from Parent-Teacher Associations but from women's clubs and institutes in different parts of the country, showing the desire to conserve clothing as well as food. Most women can make a garment from new material but comparatively few have any idea of making over or utilizing material at hand.

My experience has been, in giving away clothing that needed a patch or a few stitches, that the garment was put on and worn without mending and was soon gone, while if it had been made over it would have lasted much longer.

We do not pretend to say that garments made from cast-off clothing will last as long as new material, but if the garment is well made it will last as long if not longer than much of the new material that many can afford in these times of

high prices. As a rule the average housewife has been reluctant to pass on to others the many little ways of economizing she has found effective in her home, fearing she might be considered penurious. That time is past. The slogan now is to save.

It is time to look through our closets and boxes and bring to light the clothing that is not being used and that is, perhaps, only furnishing food for moths. If it were possible to conserve and utilize all the cast-off clothing, every man, woman and child could be properly clad.

There should be a sewing club in every school where women could bring their sewing and exchange ideas and be helped to select suitable patterns for making new garments as well as making over garments. In this way cast-off clothing can be conserved, besides helping the needy during these trying times.

The day of isolated work for women has passed. Let the woman who has no children to sew for help the overworked mother of many. It would be of mutual benefit. We all know that a child can study better and accomplish more if properly clad. These sewing clubs might meet once or twice a month. Women could bring cast-off clothing to be made over either for their own children or for some charitable institution. There are many mothers who spend much time sewing cheap lace on their children's clothing, when it would be better to put the price of the lace in material more serviceable which would look better and last longer. There is our opportunity through the sewing clubs to get simple dressing in the schools.

Our grandmothers used to piece quilts from

the scraps left from making new garments. We have thrown them away. They can be utilized for trimmings in making new garments or when making over garments.

In the near future there may be in every city a municipal building where cast-off clothing may be sent to be made over and utilized to the best advantage.

A woman who has done much relief work in Belgium said, "The old clothing we sent over there was a greater blessing than when we were sending bolts of new material." With the new material a garment was soon made and the women were restless and unhappy, while with the old material they had to plan, patch and darn, making the work last much longer. We are facing the same situation. Our men and boys have gone to fight for our country's honor. There will be many women who need occupation, to help them forget the terrible horrors of war.

According to the report of the Department of Labor for 1916 a large proportion of the families of our national capital had neither sufficient food or clothing. With the increased cost of living the conditions will be even worse this winter.

It is our duty not only to conserve food and clothing but to eliminate waste in every possible way. Then let us get together, rich and poor alike, and work for the good of all.

This war will equalize our standards and help to inculcate in our minds that honest labor is dignified service.

Let us all do our bit to help win this war and save the flag under whose sheltering protection we live today.

National Education Association of the United States

Strange as it may seem, the demands on hotels are much greater this year than during previous years. This seems to be true even in case of the larger cities where there are no cantonments. There are few cities in the country able to provide first-class hotel accommodations for six thousand people at one time. Owing to these new demands on hotels, Atlanta found it impossible to care for the meeting of the Department of Superintendence, February 25-March 2. For the same reason and because of having scheduled other events, Boston could not provide the necessary accommodations for this meeting. Atlantic City proved to be one of the few cities able to provide ample accommodations.

"There is probably no city in the country which has so many fine hotels as Atlantic City. It will be possible to provide a room with accommodations in a first-class hotel satisfactory in price and satisfactory in accommodations for every member of the department. One of the

finest auditoriums in the country with a seating capacity of nine thousand and with perfect acoustic properties will be placed at the service of the department. The city provides many smaller auditoriums and assembly halls. These are easily accessible from any of the leading hotels. The hotels are so near each other and so uniformly good that it is unnecessary to choose any one as the headquarters for the department. In order, however, to make it possible for members to find the officials of the association the following hotels will be chosen as the headquarters for officers: The Traymore, the Marlborough-Blenheim, the Chalfonte, and the Breakers."

The usual Conference of National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations will be held in connection with the National Education Association, Department of Superintendence.

A Word to Mothers on the Training of Boys

A strong sentiment, common among boys, but also shared by society, is the feeling that it is necessary to get away from home to really enjoy oneself, always mixing and meeting with others. It must be granted that a roving disposition is more masculine than feminine. In few families are boys much in evidence except at meal times. Restlessness and boredom are the very essence of convalescence and enforced confinement in the house.

Is there not a deep-seated reason that only the mothers can correct through proper training? From the earliest years, there is an unconscious difference in our attitude toward the girl and the boy. The girl is taught very early to make things with her hands. She learns to sew, to weave, to crochet, or to knit, and in some of the European countries to make bodkin lace. She enjoys these things and so would the boy if he were not deprived or shamed out of it. The girl is expected to take a personal interest in the condition of the house, to tidy the rooms, to help with the setting of the table, with the preparation of the food, and the washing of the dishes. This is constructive activity and helps to make the girl self-reliant. The boy, on the contrary, is left free to amuse himself, if he is not running on errands. He is seldom made to feel a personal interest in the house, often not even to the extent of cleaning up his own messes. He very early imbibes the idea, somehow, that the things of the house do not concern him, especially if the father takes that attitude. He also absorbs the notion that needles, hooks, dish-cloths, and brooms have been invented for the exclusive pleasure of women and girls. No one has ever been obliged to tell them so. The boy who has tools uses his hands, pursues a hobby perhaps, makes real things, and is not bored at home. But the boy without parental guidance is found on the street with time heavy on his hands, if not engaged in some game. Such a boy falls in with some other spirits as restless as himself, and soon forms the habit to loaf and smoke. Many men with families are just as restless at home. They wander off to the club, read, play, loaf and smoke. An invalid man is generally pitiable, he is so helpless and unhappy. A woman, on the other hand, even if old and decrepit, finds work for her hands to do and is not helplessly useless. Something for the hands to do is the secret of contentment at home.

One mother, whom the writer knows, has tried a sensible method in bringing up her boy. He was taught to sew on buttons as soon as he could handle a needle; he outlined designs; he learned to crochet little lines for his play; he made worsted balls; he learned to weave and darn; he was taught to wash and wipe dishes; and above all, always to wait on himself and clean up any mess he made. He saw his father do these things, for

helpfulness was the strong undercurrent in the life of this family. A sewing-basket was handy in every bed-room and no one waited for mother to do the little necessary services that take little time for each individual, but pile up mountain-high, if left for the busiest member of the family to do. A boy brought up like this will not be helpless when away from home, at college, in camp, on shipboard, or when married. The last-named is most important, not only because the young wife and mother will have duties to perform for really helpless bits of humanity, while the husband ought to be a self-reliant adult, not requiring personal service, but he must also be the living example to his sons. Many a housewife has found it utterly impossible to enjoy the luxury of staying in bed when ill, simply because her husband could not prepare an ordinary breakfast, nor bathe and dress a child.

How many of the young men in camp at present are able to take care of their clothes, make even small articles for their own comfort or that of a companion, or give first aid? False pride is truly cowardly. A change is slowly taking place in the attitude of the people toward every kind of labor, and true respect for economy of time and effort. The nation could be exceedingly grateful to the mothers, if all the young men were self-reliant.

Constructive activity is the cure for the general leniency toward destructiveness of boys. There is no excuse for it except lack of proper training. The early impressions of childhood are the deep-rooted ones and the unconscious influence in the home is the cause of the present dependence of men and boys on women for personal service. Mothers, let us be awake to the big responsibility of training our boys aright. Unfortunately some mothers will have both sons and husbands to train, but it will be worth while.

Before closing, a notable instance comes to mind of a young woman who was the only girl among five brothers. The old-fashioned idea, that what women have done in the past, women must continue to do, was practiced in this home, until one day the burdens of the sister seemed too heavy to bear and she rebelled, saying to her father that it was surely not her fault that she happened to be the girl; but it was the fault of the family practice to expect her to do all the personal service for them all. A light dawned upon the thoughtless members of that family, and they learned to take care of themselves. It made a happy home out of a discontented one, when each boy made his own bed, cared for his room, mended his rents, sewed on his buttons, and took his turn to help with the dishes. The mothers can do much to remedy this unjust division of labor. But let us remember that constructiveness, creativeness, and helpfulness must be the motive.

"Stand by Your Government and Work for It"

By MRS. GEO. WINSLOW,

Chairman Patriotism, Third District, California Congress

I have only a thought and a message to give to you this time, and my thought is this, in this time of big things—big ships, big guns, big armies and vast sums of money, and all the things of old, dwarfed by the might of today—I wonder how many have thought of the bigness and the gloriousness of our American patriotism.

It has in truth grown out of all semblance to what we had in the Revolution and the various wars since. Then it was a matter of defending our own front yard, of repulsing the invader from our own front door.

England and France are sending their men to war, under the urge of that old patriotism. But our patriotism has gone beyond that, it has looked across the seas, and has seen a stricken world, helpless and bleeding, and this wonderful patriotism, born and bred in this glorious country of ours, has bid our men buckle on their uniforms and shoulder their guns, so as to cross the seas to defend the world against anarchy.

Is not this patriotism of today, something born of the gods, and something for which to give thanks?

My message shows the other side of the shield. While we are sending our husbands and sons into the trenches, there is a menace here among us that will prove more disastrous to the welfare of our country and our men than all the enemy's bullets, and we, blind and bound, are letting it go on to our everlasting shame.

I was talking to a young soldier who started for camp last week. He said he had no equipment nor uniform as yet, and didn't expect any for some time, as the boys who had been in camp for months had received none. "That is the crime of it all," he said, "the government has the money and can get the men, but no uniforms, no guns and no ammunition," and do you know the reason why? It is because the strikes have tied up mills and railroads that the government, with plenty of money, cannot get the necessities of war either made or delivered. It is the rank-est treason foisted on a long-suffering country.

A month's delay in this thing or that may

mean our Waterloo, may imperil the lives of all our brave men, and make all our sacrifices vain. That is the only thing on which Germany can depend now, and her agents are working overtime, and we sit calmly by and let it go on.

It is a crime so gigantic that we haven't grasped it yet, but it must be stopped and there we women can help. Each one of you women can preach to your men this doctrine, *Stand by your government, and work for your government if it takes you into the bread line.*

This is no time to be quibbling over prices and hours, but those agents from Germany are doing their best to tie up our factories and transportation facilities, until we will be like squirrels running around in cages, and all Germany has to do is to take cage and all and drop it in the ocean. We can also demand that our government treat these walking delegates and other agitators as the traitors they really are.

I leave it to wiser heads than mine to find ways and means of clearing our land of this monstrous peril, but I do know it should be done, and that speedily. I wish we could show the men that there was no nobler work for them to do than in aiding their government to furnish to our soldiers and our allies the needed supplies in the shortest possible time, and in so doing would be doing their *might* with the highest general in the land.

Surely a few dollars more in wages is a little thing besides a life offered to our country, and God grant that all loyal Americans will soon understand that the best and quickest way to ensure the safe return of our men and boys who have left their home to fight across the seas is in a *steady constant service* in fields and mills of the country, and an *absolute refusal to strike for any reason whatsoever as long as the war shall last.*

Let us preach this doctrine as our patriotism, that wonderful patriotism that lays aside selfish desires and material benefit, and looks beyond the present, with the HATE and RUTHLESSNESS, to a world dominated by PEACE and GOOD-WILL.

Life is so short, the days are so few,
Heartaches so many—What can I do?

Sad faced small children gazing away
Out o'er life's horizon,—Which is the way?

Their fairy world blighted by care and distress,
Bodies so stunted and forlorn of dress.

Cold hearts ignore them or misunderstand
And press a new penny into the hand.

O, life is so short, the days are so few,
And heartaches so many,—What can I do?

Z. L. V.

Tuition

From dawn of day till set of sun,
Through all my busy housewifery,
My little comrade follows me,
My baby boy, my sweet, my one.

From dawn of day till sun has set
He mimics every act of mine;
God keep my conduct fair and fine,
A blameless pattern for my pet.

From set of sun till dawn of day
His snowy nest is near to seek;
His brown boy's hand and round flushed cheek
A sight more dear than words can say.

With him I taste forgotten bliss,
The old unlearned primeval good.
I feel his buoyancy of blood;
There's magic in his very kiss!

I see the world with strange surprise;
The stars are fresh, the moon is new.

A curious charm clothes all I view
Through baby's wide brown wondering eyes.

With my small pilgrim I retrace
The devious labyrinths of speech;
I learn the root of every breach
Of rule, each stumbling block I face.

And always as I teach I learn
As much from him as he from me;
O tiny tutor at my knee,
Proud am I when your praise I earn!

If God should say, "Assist me now;
Here is a soul I cannot reach.
No love doth melt, no grief doth teach,
No pain achieve that pride to bow."

My word should spring without delay,
"One influence yet remains for good;
By Thine own Holy Fatherhood
O give that one a child, I pray!"

JULIA BOYNTON GREEN.

Mother as a Story Teller

By ANNA MAE BRADY

Children in all ages and climes have loved stories of fancy and fact. There always has been, too, someone to tell these stories. In early times they heard them from men who travelled about, making story telling their profession. In Bible times Christ was the great Story Teller. In our own times children are very fortunate indeed in this respect, for there are teachers, preachers, librarians, and playground workers who are spending their time in this work.

But because the story hour naturally belongs to the fireside and because it is the quiet, peaceful time, it belongs to the home first of all. Because it is the best means of moral and spiritual teaching as well as an opportunity to inculcate high ideals of character, the mother, because of her first interest in this, is the natural story teller.

She gathers her children around her after the day's work is done and tells them some simple story. Perhaps it is the only thing to quiet them and prepare them for the sleepy time to come. That is a legitimate motive, for while psychologists are able to tell us very little about sleep, still they *do* know that our last waking thoughts not only influence our sleeping hours, but the next day as well. Children are more susceptible to such influences than grown-ups, so we always need to see to it that the sleepy time is a happy time. It should never be used as a time for scolding or nagging.

The story is the best instrument for moral teaching and no amount of Sunday-school instruction which is usually given with the best motive in the world can compare with the high ideals, right modes of living and the moral truths which come from hearing mother tell the stories of the lives of such characters as Jesus, Joseph, David or Moses. We usually forget the usual teachings, but there is something about these stories which causes them to come back to us often and unconsciously effects our lives.

The mother who understands uses the story as a means of inspiring her children to do wonderful things in the future when they take their places in the affairs of men. No one ever succeeded in any line unless back of it was a mental picture—an ideal. Every bit of completed work was first planned and worked out in the mind of some person. The dreamer of dreams is necessary to individuals as well as world progress, but we must be careful to be doers as well as dreamers. Childhood is the golden hour of dreams, and the mother by her well-selected stories gives them just the material they need for their dream-fancies, high ideals and the ability to hold them before us and see them clearly determines one's strength in life.

And discipline—how easy it is to train and discipline these little people through stories. Right rules of conduct to be of any value must come from within, not from without. And it is much more lasting and effective to have a

child recognize some principle of right living in the story than to have the mother call attention to his particular fault and ask him to remedy it.

The mother who gathers her children around her and tells them the great stories which the

past generations have given us, is enjoying one of the highest privileges of a parent, which is entering into the world of her children and becoming their closest companion.

Some Mothers I Have Known

By LYNN DAVIS HICKS.

THE BOOGIE MAN.

It was the first night of my spring visit to Alice and Tom and Tad! Tad was my god-child, and nothing could have kept me from accepting Alice's invitations to run down "and see what's new about Tad." He was five, now, and one must really live with him to keep up. That first evening, we had a splendid romp, and were in the middle of a story, wonderful to Tad, when Lena, the maid, came to put him to bed.

"Is it much longer?" Alice asked.

It was not, so Lena was kept waiting a few minutes, but only a few. When she took Tad, she hurried him along at "dragging speed," for Tad was more interested in the girl he was leaving behind him than in the one who was leading him off. He must wave and throw kisses, until completely out of sight; and all the way up the steps he was calling, "Night, see you in the mornin'."

Then we heard the footsteps over our heads quicken to a halting run, and the cheery call change to a whimpering little, "'Ou 'top, 'ou Lena." Once or twice, after that, he escaped and ran out to "Hoo-hoo" through the banisters.

"Better call, hadn't you, dear?" Tom asked Alice, who was listening, head turned.

"No, let her try to manage him; she never will if I interfere, and it's her job."

We could hear Lena's voice, low and a bit threatening in the rising inflection at the end. Alice listened the more intently.

"She's on trial," she said to me, "and I want to be sure of her. He's all right, I guess: there she is, going down."

Things were perfectly quiet overhead.

"Doesn't he sing himself to sleep any more?" I asked. His sleep songs had been my special delight in former visits.

"Yes, always," Alice said. "He must have been very tired." She tipped into the hall, and listened, then very softly, up the steps.

Suddenly, from Tad, there came a terrified scream. Tom and I jumped and ran after Alice. Tom turned on the light. Alice had him in her arms, a trembling, damp, sobbing little boy, clinging to her neck.

"Darling, tell mother,—what is it?" over and over she asked.

"He's under—the bed," he whispered.

"What, dear? There isn't anything under there."

Tom was saying things about Lena that had better not be printed here.

"What's there, Tad? Tell mother," she pleaded again.

He looked around in a bewildered sort of way at us, his eyes wide, his little face flushed. "The boogie man! He'll get me."

"No dear, there wasn't any boogie man. It was mother coming."

"He's black. He'll eat me up." He peeped down around her shoulder, shrinkingly, as if expecting to see the creature come out.

"Show him, Alice. Seeing's believing," Tom suggested.

Tad began to shriek again, and to draw away from her when she started to stoop with him. But she sat on the floor and made him look under the bed.—"See, dear, not a thing."

The sobs grew long, but Tad was unconvinced. "In there," he said, pointing to the closet.

When she started toward the door, he clung with a vise-like grip, his little body shaking with fear.

"See, nothing but your toys and your suits," she said.

But his fear was stronger than his faith in her assurances, and because he was suffering real terror, she stayed with him, holding him tight in her arms, until he fell to sleep. When she came down, it was with an expression that fitted the things Tom had said upstairs.

"All my work of five years undone in a night," she said. "I've been so careful to make him fearless. Besides the cruel torture of being afraid, think of the moral effect. As soon as he knows fear, he invents evasions, lies and things. I know by my own childhood,—the witch, the bear and the lion under the bed. And then his nerves!"

The next morning, Lena explained that she had been in a hurry to get to a dance, and that he would not stop playing, so she had "just fooled him a little." She had always told little children that "to make 'em good. I just told him the boogie man comes when it gets dark, an' hides hisself in yo' room, but he don't never git you when you's good."

"Were you told that," Alice asked her, "when you were little."

"Yas'm."

"Is that why you will never go into a dark room?"

"No ma'am. I'm jest skeered to go in a dark room."

Tad played quite naturally all day—without Lena, for her place was vacant. It was when the sun was going to bed, telling all little children to get their supper and go, too, that he grew quiet. He crept into Alice's lap.

"Mo'er, will you go to bed with me tonight?"

"Yes, dear."

"Will you stay, Mo'er?"

Alice hesitated. Her eyebrows quivered slightly nearer each other; she dreaded the thing she had to do.

"Yes, dear. Mother'll stay with you till you get undressed and say your prayers, the way she always has."

His brown eyes stretched with dread. Alice saw that he had not forgotten. Her eyes reflected the expression of his, which were glued, with such pleading, to her face.

"All aboard for Sleepy Town!" she cried, gaily. "Any little boys here to take the train to Sleepy Town?"

"Mo'er, is the boogie man there?"

Alice squared him on her knee. "Tad, did Mother ever tell you anything that wasn't true?"

"No, Mo'er."

"Now listen to me! There are no such things as boogie men. There is nothing in the dark to hurt children. There is nothing in the dark that is not in the light. Has anything ever hurt you in the dark?"

"No, Mo'er."

"Now let's be a big, brave boy."

When he kissed us goodnight, there was not the sparkle and the joy of the night before. He lagged, but not to wave and throw kisses backward. He stared wide-eyed and solemn into the darkness before him.—As I had to go to my room, which was right next to Tad's, I heard what happened.

"Mo'er, is he here? Light the light, Mo'er."

"All right, dear. We'll light it, and you can look everywhere so you'll be sure there's nothing there."

"But him'll come."

"Dear, Mother told you that nothing comes in the dark to hurt or frighten children. Tad, don't you think that Mother and Father love you?" A little affirmative murmur followed. "Haven't we always taken care of you, and never let anything hurt you, and taught you how to keep out of the streets so nothing can hurt you, and not let you eat things that will make you sick?"

"Ye-es."

"Well, do you think that we would leave you up here if anything were going to hurt you? God is right here beside you; you know that,

don't you, and do you think that he will let anything hurt you?"

"Even when I'm naughty, won't he come?"

"No, darling, how can he come, when there isn't any to come?"

She heard his prayers, said in a halting, timid voice, and ending, "For Chwist's sake Amen Mo'er will you stay with me?"

When she left him, he called pitifully, but with a forced, cheery voice she told him, "We're right down here. Go to sleep."

She had to go back to him, later, but she let him look everywhere again, and left him.

"Alice, it's too hard on him," Tom said, but she was firm.

All of this happened for several more nights. Then one time, she went up to see if he was asleep. She found him damp and trembling, but he had not called.

"What is it, darling?"

"Over there, Mo'er."

"It's only the wind, darling, blowing the leaves of your piggie book."

Thus, she helped him to conquer his fear. Every morning, she would recall to him the fears of the night before. "And see, here you are, safe and sound."

"Yes, there isn't any black, boogie man, is there Mo'er?"

But in spite of his little efforts to convince himself, there were still some doubts, shown that very evening, when Alice went a step farther. It was dark, we were all in the living room.

"Darling, Mother left her book on your bed. Will you get it?"

He started off, gaily, as of yore. Then, halfway up the steps the little feet stopped.

"Mo'er,—"

"It's all right, dear."

Slowly, he went on. (Alice tipped to the hall door.) He reached his room, the bed, the book. Then, just tore back down the hall and the steps to light and people and certainty. His face was white, his heart thumping, as Tom caught him up and held him tight.

Tad's parents looked as triumphant as if they had killed a dragon—or worse, as indeed they had. For I think that, now, it would take less courage for me to walk into a dark room in which I had been told a bloodthirsty criminal awaited me, than it took for me to conquer the fear of the creatures with which older minds filled the dark of my childhood.

A letter from Alice today says, "Last night, for the first time since you were here Tad sang himself to sleep. I really believe he is over that disease. I don't know whether we could have cured it if it had gotten more deeply rooted before we discovered it. Poor little heart! how he suffered! To me, it is just like grafting cancer on a clean, little, baby body, to make a child afraid of things, especially things that aren't!"

Patriotic Services of Congress of Mothers in Many States**HAMPTON, VIRGINIA**

Many thousands of mother' sons in khakis are assembled in our many camps and the war spirit is in the very atmosphere.

Dr. Kate Waller Barrett, National Chairman of Mothers' Army and Navy Camp Committee, has visited all the surrounding camps and given many informing and inspirational talks to the women of our town and vicinity, concerning our part in the social and moral welfare of our boys and girls—and of the men in camps.

This committee of social clubs near military camps has done a wonderful and very successful work ever since its organization in July, 1917, under the capable and energetic management of our whole-souled and gifted chairman, Mrs. Frank W. Darling, ably assisted by our secretary Miss Grace Cumming, and the chairmen of our hut committees.

Mrs. Darling carries on this work so much appreciated by the men of the cantonments with Major Pruden, chaplain at Fort Monroe, as a most able assistant—one who has made the efforts of the club possible and practical.

Major Pruden had established buildings as recreation centers for the men at each battery before the Y. M. C. A. found it possible to be on the ground, and he and Mrs. Darling arranged for a visit to be paid to each battery in rotation on each Thursday night—one each week. A musical and literary program is followed by a social hour with ice cream and cake. The men enjoy this hour of friendly normal life—and the visitors find many interesting cultivated men in these camps. The social club visits the six camps in rotation and nearly three thousand men have been entertained in this way.

Two of the camps visited have to be reached by boat, one being on Fisherman's Island and one at Ft. Wool. These men especially enjoy our visits, as they are practically isolated.

Besides the camp entertainments we have conducted a community song service for soldiers and sailors every Sunday afternoon at Fort Monroe, and Mrs. C. E. Hewins, chairman of our hospitality house, has done a fine work in keeping open house for soldiers and sailors at the Virginia Yacht Club and later at the Elks' Hall.

This hall is open during the entire week, and on Saturday afternoon a reception is given by the ladies to which all soldiers are invited.

A number of delightful receptions have been tendered the British and French officers while they were in port. The British seamen have also been entertained at the tea house.

Lunches were prepared for our own Battery D, and a comfort bag given to each one.

Three hundred and fifty steamer letters were written, one for each man in the Roanoke and Lynchburg Companies who left Old Point—the captain of the company to deliver them to the

men after they sailed for France. A list of the committees and the treasurer's report will give a good idea of the work accomplished and the varied activities of the social club. The work continually grows and the self-sacrificing interest of our members increases. We are to have a community tree and other entertainments. We go, too, to our aviation fields.

The question has been asked "Does it pay?" To hear the men voice their sincere thanks for the pleasant home evening entertainments during which for a few hours they forget all their trials and lose themselves in the social chat, the pleasure of talking about themselves and their home people so dear to their hearts and realizing how true and deep is the interest taken in them by their civilian visitors, to see their light and smiling faces and hear the cheers and thanks as we take our leave—this answers the question.

Major Pruden at Old Point, and the officers at Langley Field, have given every assistance and made this work possible for us.

Many unsolicited contributions have been received, and our work has been to us a joy and a delight, and will continue so to be.

ALABAMA

The members of the Mothers' Circle of Montgomery have opened their homes and hearts to the Ohio soldier boys stationed at Camp Sheridan, and on Sundays, the boys are welcome guests to dinner. On Thanksgiving Day a committee from our circle visited the base hospital and presented three hundred sick soldiers with bouquets of flowers, each bouquet tied with an appropriate Bible verse.

While doing all we can for the Ohio boys, we have by no means forgotten our own Alabama boys, stationed at Camp Wheeler, Macon, Ga. With the coöperation of our two other Mothers' Clubs, the Mothers' Round Table and the United Mothers, we have sent them three barrels of home-made preserves, jellies, cakes and candies.

The Mothers' Circle has worked hand in hand with the Red Cross, the members doing their quota of knitting, making bandages, etc., also contributing thirty dollars to the fund.

The School Committee, headed by Mrs. O. B. Waldo, who started the agitation for a new school in North Montgomery, see the fulfillment of their efforts in a splendid new building which will soon be ready for occupancy.

The activities of the Mothers' Circle were continued all summer with the organization of the Montgomery Coöperative Canning Club, suggested by the President, Mrs. W. B. Friedman. This canning club took charge of the surplus vegetables from the home gardens and the neighboring vicinity and through its efforts nine thou-

sand five hundred cans of vegetables and fruits were conserved for future use.

The Woodlawn Circle of Birmingham reports many camp activities. The sending of two shipments of delicacies to the base hospital at Winston.

In all sending 56 pounds of home-made fudge, forty boxes of Jello, and one dozen boxes of home-made jelly, quarts preserves, stationery and books.

The chairman, Mrs. J. P. Levy, reports much enthusiasm in doing camp work.

The circle has added many new members, and Mrs. Levy has organized a new circle, St. Paul School Improvement Association, seventy-five members.

The Twentieth Century Club of Ensley is aiding the baby clinic of the open air school for tubercular children by financial contributions. It has donated money for the base hospital unit in France and is knitting for the Red Cross.

A charity chest is maintained from which relief is given to needy families. Magazines are sent each month to the Girls' Industrial School, which is also visited by a committee of the Club.

MARYLAND

Plenty of Cheer at Soldiers' Club. United Service Organization, W. Fayette St., Gives Khaki-Clad Boys a Taste of Home.

It's "our club" when the boys at Camp Meade mention the United Service Club, which the National Congress of Mothers has opened on the second floor of 206 W. Fayette Street. And the "homey" effect of chintz curtains, big, comfortable chairs and the cheery glow of the stoves is so appealing that the first Saturday night 100 men had to be turned away because there wasn't room enough for them, and big six-footer—one of the lucky twenty-one who came early and was allowed to stay—turned to one of the lady managers and in a deep, halting voice confided:

"Lady, you don't know what this place means to me. I've got lots of invitations to go into private homes, but I've been away so long from my own home that I don't feel comfortable.

But this place belongs to me. It's like my own home." And there was terrible longing in his voice as he added: "I haven't seen mother for four years."

One hundred and fifty beds will soon be ready for the boys now that the need for them has been demonstrated.

Even the policeman on the beat has learned what a real home means to many of these homesick and lonely men, and frequently he escorts a brother in khaki to the doors of the Service Club. And every man who enjoys its hospitality brings two or three friends with him the next time he comes.

In one room is a grand piano, a victrola and a music-box. Two of the other rooms have open shelves stacked with books and a supply of games. Grass rugs cover the floor and the feminine touch is everywhere visible.

Not that it's a woman's club. Bless your soul, no! Sometimes the air is so thick with tobacco smoke that you could cut it. Ash-receivers and matches were among the first things to be bought.

Girls are invited to visit the club, provided—and this rule is as inexorable as the laws of the Medes and Persians—they are chaperoned by their mothers or other older women.

TENNESSEE

The Y. M. C. A. quarantine hospital, as well as base hospital, have had contributions of magazines and books. Hundreds of glasses of jellies and other delicacies have been sent to our regiment and to the hospitals. Visiting is done whenever permissible in hospitals and quarters. Soldiers are being entertained in homes at week ends and by entertaining programs occasionally. Mending has been done until this date, when we understand that it is not to be encouraged by those in command, as the boys are supposed to learn to do their own mending, so when they have no one to do it for them "over there" they will be independent. We have taken an active part in this hospitality week which is being observed in Chattanooga this week and are helping place the ten thousand soldiers in homes for Sunday.

Fall In Love With Your Work

The richest rewards come only when one can literally fall in love with one's work. If you are keenly interested in your daily efforts, your work is being done more satisfactorily. It is a labor of love. Every day is an enjoyable experience.

Love your work. Retain your youthful enthusiasm. All this means that you must take every possible care of your health. That you must maintain your physical energies at high-water mark. Remember always that you depend upon your bodily machine for the attainment of your object in life. Take care of that machine.

Is it not worth more than an automobile, than an aeroplane, a fine horse or dog? Is it not in reality beyond financial valuation? Recognize its value to the full. Remember that each day you are what your food makes you. Your muscles, the strength and contour of your body, are influenced by the exercise you take. The blood that makes up the tissues, that nourishes and gives energy and enthusiasm to your brain; depends upon your diet and exercise and the general care you give your body.—Bernarr Macfadden in *December Physical Culture*.

State News

Alaska, Arizona, Alabama, California, Connecticut, Indiana, Iowa, Illinois, Montana, New Jersey New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Vermont, West Virginia

ALASKA

Ketchikan, Alaska, is a town of about 3,000 people with a single school organized with eight grammar grades and the equivalent at present of two high school grades. The latter includes manual training and domestic science. There are seven teachers, a principal and a three-member school board under the town council. We have a parent-teacher association and desire information or suggestions bearing on present trend of education and educational methods, particularly on relation of parent to school and field of useful constructive effort on the part of parents. R. R. Tinkham is the president.

ARIZONA

The Balsz Parent-Teacher Association was organized with twelve members January, 1917, by Mrs. Frank C. Alkire. Mrs. Franklin LaRue was elected president, Miss Mere Egley, vice-president; Mrs. Alice Buntin, secretary and treasurer. We gave socials of various kinds to raise money to pay for one hundred chairs, dishes, lamps and a new piano. Our home economic department has accomplished very much. We have taken up the new process of canning fruit with the cold pack method under the direction of Mrs. Edith Salsbery, home economic specialist of the state university.

Our association is flourishing very much for the population of our school district. We are doing our part in the Red Cross work as well as other charity work.

ARIZONA BETTER BABIES THROW DOWN TO ALL WORLD CHALLENGE OF SUPERIORITY

Nowhere in Arizona are there parents more proud than are Mr. and Mrs. Ole R. Lindstrom of Phoenix, for their only child, Edna Christina, has been declared officially the very best of all of Arizona's Better Babies. In the recent Better Babies contest at the state fair she more nearly approached the 100 per cent. mark than did any of her 175 competitors for honors, themselves the best in their classes to be found in the state.

The babies entered in the exhibit were grouped and judged in four classes—city boys, city girls, country boys and country girls—and honors were awarded in each class. She won the "sweepstakes" and for one year at least can justly claim the title of the Best Baby in Arizona. In recognition of her high place in Babyland Edna Christina has been presented with a gold medal, beautiful and appropriate in design, by the Arizona Congress of Mothers, which for several years has planned and conducted at the state fair a Better Babies exhibit along the lines sug-

gested and standardized by the Better Babies bureau of the Woman's Home Companion.

At the time of her birth, ten months ago, the gold medal baby weighed $8\frac{1}{2}$ pounds and was strong. From birth she has been breastfed, being now fed six times in 24 hours, and she sleeps alone in a room one window of which is kept open. Her present weight is 23 pounds, her height $29\frac{1}{4}$ inches, and in all measurements she is perfect with the single exception of the diameter of the chest ant-posterior, which differs but a trifle from the standard measurement. This, and a slight temporary chapping of the skin of the cheeks caused the baby's only loss in percentage, one half of one per cent. being deducted in each case, placing her score at 99.

Entrants were submitted to five tests—mental and developmental, measurements, physical examination, oral and dental examination, and eye, ear, nose and throat. These tests were conducted by specialists in their respective lines. The Lindstrom baby received a perfect score in all tests save for the exceptions previously mentioned.

The near approach made by the Lindstrom child to the standard of the perfect baby is remarkable. Although Arizona children are notably healthy and robust, neither medical men nor parents expected so high a grade to be attained, and when the trifling nature of the defects noted are considered, the result speaks even more highly for the winner and almost convinces one that in this instance facts speak louder than figures and that she is really more nearly a 100 per cent. baby than her score makes her appear.

CALIFORNIA

At the reciprocity luncheon of Berkeley Federation of Mothers' Clubs and Parent-Teacher Associations, conservation of the home was preached and conservation of food was practiced. More than two hundred mothers and the principals of all the schools attended.

Mayor Irving, in greeting the mothers, said, now that the country is at war women are ready and willing to bear the burden.

Gems of thought from Prof. W. B. Herm's address: "The schools of to-day are a fact, those of to-morrow a dream. If some of the schools, even in Berkeley, are the realization of somebody's dream, that dream must have been a hideous nightmare. A school seldom rises above the ideals and faith of the community it serves."

"Show me the school inside and out, and I will tell you what the community is to-day and what it may be to-morrow."

"A child is the creature of its environment and responds as does a plant. A beautiful rose cannot thrive long on a rocky mountain. Its fragrance would soon be lost." "I do not plead for ease and comfort, for it takes a sturdy oak to weather a storm. I am a believer in hard work both for myself and for others."

"The schools of to-day are idle too much of the time; they are not doing the work they might be doing."

"Much of the teaching of to-day has tended toward selfishness. Children have not found it necessary to think for others. The present war is having a tremendous influence in turning the thoughts of children toward service for others."

In his dream of a school for to-morrow, Professor Herms saw the schools converted into community centers, with means to bring school and home into closer bonds; visiting teachers as a part of a home service department; a social "engineer" similar to a physical director; special schools for mentally and physically deficient children; summer schools and night schools; in short schools "which train heads, hearts and hands to make children into men and women, mentally, physically and morally fit."

Dr. Gulick, speaking of "Mothers and Daughters," prophesied that "In the distant future high schools will spend as much money in instruction in the care of babies as technical schools for teaching the management of machinery."

"Things related to the heart and the home are fully as important as those related to intellectual education, and the heart cannot come to fruition without instruction."

"Women are taught to teach school, to sell goods, and for preparation in every other walk in life, but in the one occupation related to the home and the heart, the pivot of all human relations, we have failed almost entirely."

Dr. Gulick urged school credits for such home work as may be selected by heads of the department of education. This plan enables the school to be brought nearer to the ideals of the home."

"This war has furnished many opportunities for service in domestic science and domestic art. If all the girls were organized into groups of sixteen or more under various mothers, think what might be accomplished."

Dr. Gulick declared that the Campfire Girls' organization, through its teachings, gives girls a new attitude toward the home. "Routine home life is made romantic and beautiful, and humble tasks are given dignity," he said.

Mrs. Gulick, as did her husband, urged that high school girls be taught the care of babies, and told of an experience last summer when a baby from a New York tenement was cared for under her supervision by a circle of Campfire Girls spending the summer in the mountains of Maine.

Mrs. Tomlinson, of San Francisco, told of turning schoolhouses into polling-places. Through the efforts of the mothers more women were registered for the school-bond election than ever before for any election; fifty-five schools were made polling-places and many parents in casting their ballots would visit for the first time the schools their children attend.

CONNECTICUT

PRESIDENT'S BULLETIN

It is encouraging to report an unusually large representation of clubs at the executive board meeting held in Waterbury, November 20, 1917, thirty-three being present.

The Brooklawn Child-Welfare Circle of Bridgeport, the Ivoryton Parent-Teacher Association, the Morris Cove Parent-Teacher Association and the Mothers' Club of Bristol were admitted to membership.

Pursuant to the policy of holding sectional meetings, the board met in Putnam on November 24.

A stimulating report, representing a great deal of research concerning literature for children, was made by Mrs. Edwin E. Perkins of 445 Ellsworth Ave., New Haven. This is so excellent that clubs are strongly urged to write for the list. Mrs. Perkins will gladly furnish it to any applicant.

The press committee greatly appreciated the prompt response to the request for clippings of local club activities. Please continue sending them and note change of address of the chairman, Mrs. Mary E. Field, 357 Center Street West Haven.

The membership committee, through its chairman, Mrs. S. Wales Dixon, announced a membership contest. A gavel will be presented at the annual meeting to be held in New Haven to the club reporting the largest percentage of increase in membership up to that date. Application blanks for use of the clubs will be sent all clubs which did not receive them at the meeting in Waterbury.

The National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations will hold its annual convention at Albany, New York, May 14-18. Begin to make plans now to attend.

The next meeting of the executive board, to be held in Hartford in January, will be addressed by Mrs. B. F. Langworthy of Chicago, President of Illinois Congress.

Clubs can secure speakers on patriotic and war topics by applying to the Speakers' Bureau, Committee on Publicity, Connecticut State Council of Defense, State Capitol, Hartford. No charge is made for such speakers, but transportation must be furnished and entertainment provided by the club when the speaker requests it.

The affiliated clubs are urged to use their influence for the teaching of constructive patriotism and the righteousness of our cause in the war, together with such other matter as may be recommended by the Committee on Education of the State Council of Defense, which is headed by Frederick A. Verplanck, superintendent of schools in South Manchester.

ILLINOIS

THE MOTHERS' EXCHANGE OF THE PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION OF SPARTA, ILLINOIS

The Mothers' Exchange of Sparta, Ill., has been in existence three years. The board consists of three mothers and three teachers. The three mothers were wives of ministers chosen because of their exceptional judgment and tact and because they were in touch with the needs of the community. This board presented the work before a meeting of the parents, as follows:

"In many homes there are articles of clothing and house furnishings that are stored away and have been a trial at every house-cleaning time. In the fall almost every mother unpacks little caps, jackets, shoes, dresses, stockings, underwear, etc., which were put away in the spring. But the boys and girls grow so fast that they often can not use them another season. In the same community there may be mothers whose hearts are heavy because their little ones must remain out of school or shiver with the cold because they need just such garments as the other children have outgrown. We have established a mothers' exchange which will help both mothers. We have opened a storeroom at the Hood Building. We want the people who have serviceable garments to spare, to bring them to this storeroom instead of returning them to the attic. Then we want the mothers who need garments for their children to come to the storeroom and a member of our exchange board will help them find what they need. This is not charity as we often think of it. It is love in the biggest sense of the word. We just want to help one another by exchanging and passing on that which another can use. Some of you may have no little garments but can send in grown-up clothing to be made over by thrifty mothers. A large dress means two dresses for a little girl, a large pair of trousers a whole suit for a small boy; a shirt-waist or shirt makes a boy's blouse.

"Any doubtful article should be sent to the laundry or cleaned before it is placed in the storeroom. There may be danger of spreading disease or vermin.

"And do not forget the home furnishings. Some school children come from homes where there is no money to spare for a pretty picture, a bright rug, white curtains or comfortable chairs. They love these comforts just as you do. If we have any to spare, let us pass them on.

"The community responded in a wonderful way. Almost every child brought something. Homes that we hardly expected to help found something which they could spare for another. Money was sent to the exchange board that it might be used to repair the shoes which needed a patch or a sole.

"The exchange was handled in such a tactful way that many mothers availed themselves of its help. The attendance of the children was

increased because they had stout warm clothing to resist the wet and cold; their study efficiency was increased because little bodies were clean and comfortable; the spirit of altruism was increased in the school and community because we were working together for the common good."

It is suggested that the needs this year will be greater and there are many ways to enlarge the work. We may find it necessary to open an unused room in the school building for a sewing room. It can be nicely done in any school.

Into such a room we would place a large cutting table, several small tables, two or more sewing machines, sets of patterns of assorted sizes, several chairs, a supply of sharp scissors, needles, pins, etc. If possible have a set of lockers or drawers where individual work can be cared for. Have a large box of assorted trimmings which have come from the accumulated pieces in many sewing baskets. Encourage beauty as well as service in children's clothes. An ironing board and iron for pressing the work will be a great help.

Many mothers have no sewing machine. Many do not know how to cut garments from old clothing. Some do not know how to cut and sew at all. If you can afford it, hire a skilled seamstress who has genius for making over clothes to take charge of the work a few days each week. The rooms should be open to all mothers who will use it. Older girls, in schools which do not teach sewing, may be given credit for a few hours spent each week in helping the mothers or sewing for themselves.

Not all articles which are sent in can be used for children's clothes. Let these be torn into carpet rags or cut into quilt pieces. The boys and girls may sew them as a part of their manual work. The rags can be woven by a local weaver or the children taught how to make pretty braided rugs.

Of course it is necessary that all contributions should be clean.

If you live in a prosperous community where there is no need for children to wear made-over clothing, start the work for the sake of the million of little ones in the world who are glad to have it.

INDIANA

The County Superintendent of Public Instruction in Indianapolis not only endorses the work of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations, but has given to Mrs. Hence Orme, one of the vice-presidents of the Congress, the privilege of presenting the work before every teachers' institute in the district, and will accompany Mrs. Orme when she makes the presentation to the institutes.

The principal of one school in the county who had said over and over again that he did not want any Parent-Teacher Association in his school and would not attend a meeting called by request of the parents realized that he had not

understood the great purpose of the Parent-Teacher Association, for when he came reluctantly to the meeting and listened indifferently he said on the conclusion of the address "Well this is what this school has been needing, and I hope we shall have all the parents at the next meeting." It is facts which people want. When we get the right kind of information before the teachers and patrons there is no trouble in getting our work started.

IOWA

Systematized Work of Parent-Teacher Associations in Charles City

The Parent-Teacher and Mothers' Association of Charles City gave an operetta "The Lost Princess Bo-Peep," including 300 in its cast—a few adults and the rest school children. The proceeds were divided between the Parent-Teacher council—for relief in poor families of the schools and a fund for Belgian children. The Council also helps pay for the food conservation work of the Federal agent, Miss Jessie Campbell, and for the course of lectures by Dr. Rachel Yanos, from health conservation department of the National Council of Defense. At the November meeting reports were given from clubs from A to E. Enough clubs will be called on at any other meeting to insure each club giving a report during the year.

The Social Center Committee of the Council arranges for meetings at the schools when there are no Mothers' Clubs for the lecture and demonstrations of food and home-making helps by Miss Campbell. Also arranges group meetings at private houses for mothers who are not able to get to the schoolhouse meetings and evening meetings for women who are at work from home during the day. This committee offers also to assist the principal in interesting the women in attending these lectures by calling at the homes and by caring for the children during meetings.

The Philanthropy Committee of the Council handles the fund for supplying shoes and clothing to children who are selected by the principal of their school to receive such benefit. The superintendent of the schools announces each year that the money donated by the school boys and girls at Thanksgiving time be given to the Council for its shoe fund, the food donations going to the two homes for orphan children, one of the state and one of the city. The food donations are very large.

Many children earned their money to give to the shoe fund, mothers and teachers improving this opportunity to instill into the minds of the children the highest ideals of true giving. The Council provides hot chocolate or milk for some schools.

One of the large Mothers' Clubs—Cassidy, Mrs. H. W. Pearis, president—has a card index system of organization for reaching each home in the district quickly and thoroughly. The president secured of the principal a complete

list of names of homes of children in the school. There are eighteen chairmen selected, each has a list of five names, which she calls on phone or by a personal call or note. Each of these five calls one or two others, to announce any plan or notice which the president desires given to the mothers. The club has bought a sewing machine for use of philanthropy committee in sewing for needy children, and for use of sewing classes of the school girls. Any mothers not having machines in their homes are invited to take their sewing to the school machine. They bought pictures for several rooms with money earned by entertainments by children, also presented a picture to the room having had the largest percentage of attendance of mothers at club meetings during last year; bought also extra chairs for kindergarten and games. The mothers gave a "style show," each woman attending dressed to represent the style of dress of past years, or a house dress made by herself for which a prize was given for best made and with least cost, also prize for dresses made for the girls. Mothers donate money for shows.

PLAN OF WORK OF KIRKWOOD SCHOOL, DES MOINES, MRS. P. MARSH, PRESIDENT

Membership divided into eight divisions for work as follows: No. 1, make mittens and muffs for children of school; 2, work for free baby ward at hospital; 3, Red Cross knitting squares for comforts; 4, make school bags of denim and sell for 8 cents; 5, darn stockings for poor children; 6, sort out and fix and sew buttons on dresses for poor children; 7, sort out and fix underwear for poor children; 8, earn money to buy shoes for poor children.

Each section tries to bring newcomers to meetings and one from each section acts on flowers committee and collects penny fund (last year it was \$26) to send flowers to the sick. Club room is open one day a week for Red Cross work. With four machines are now making clothes for Belgian children. All watch for personal items of news to send into one of the dailies. Made \$45 from this last year at the rate of one dollar for forty items.

Standing committees: Program and Children's Program, Finance Social, Membership, Sick Calling, Literature, Press and Special Committees, Red Cross for preparing work and Magazine to collect and get to the cantonment magazines, and School Committee with principal as chairman. Each program includes ten minutes on subject of home economics and also includes ten minutes talk by one of the teachers, and all bring knitting. Attendance is large.

The *Elmwood School* has a committee from each grade to study interests of its grade. Other standing committees: Social, Building, Health, Literature, Kindergarten. Mrs. E. D. Kruidenier, president, 120 members.

KANSAS

That the Kansas branch of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations is being recognized as a prominent factor in school work was evidenced by the action of the recent state teachers' meeting at Topeka. There were 8000 teachers in attendance. With all the multifarious duties of the meeting the Parent-Teachers' Association was given a place on the program and a round table hour. The speakers at this round table meeting were headed by State School Superintendent Ross, who gave the organization his unqualified indorsement.

The round table was held on the afternoon of November 9, and the attendance was only limited by the seating capacity of the auditorium. Mrs. J. K. Coddling, state president of the association, presided. In opening the meeting she gave a brief history of the Kansas branch of the organization. Her records show that the first parent-teacher circle was organized in Kansas City, Kansas, in the winter of 1911. M. E. Pearson was superintendent of the city schools and gave the work his support so effectively that in 1912 a City Federation was formed with 28 clubs affiliated. In 1913, following the visit of the national president of the Mothers' Congress, Mrs. Frederic Schoff, Kansas City Parent-Teacher Associations joined the national organization. From this beginning grew the state association, which was formed at Topeka in April, 1914. The president was Mrs. S. M. Williams, of Kansas City, with Mrs. J. S. Detwiler, of the same city, for secretary.

Topics on program were: "The purposes of the Parent-Teacher Associations," M. A. Pearson, Superintendent of the Kansas City Schools; "Relations of the Parent-Teacher Associations to the Changing Aspects of Education," M. E. Moore, Superintendent of Leavenworth Schools; "What Community Cooperation means to the Schools of the State," W. D. Ross, State School Superintendent; "The Parent-Teacher Association," Lillian Scott, of Baldwin; "Commercialized Amusements," Carol F. White, of Kansas City.

The addresses were inspirational and the vigorous discussions amply testified to the interest aroused. Mrs. White devoted much of her paper to the good and evil of the moving pictures, and gave a synopsis of the practical work being done by the Association to bring this great public amusement to a grade worthy the support of parents, and urged the establishment of a "family night" in every school ward.

State Superintendent Ross urged a wider use of the Smith-Hughes national legislation and appropriation. Professor Pearson and Miss Scott dilated upon the specific and practical work of the association.

"It would be as practical for a city to try and get along without a live commercial club as for the school to get along without a live parent-teacher association," said Professor Moore.

The following are extracts from his excellent address:

"The definition of education is changing. Education used to be 'book larnin'.' Now it is the physical, moral and mental ability to do what you undertake to do. This is a change—but we are apt to fail to realize that a change has come in the definition.

"The school must cease to teach life as our fathers lived it, and teach life as we live it, and as youngster of to-day will live it to-morrow, when he is the man of the day. We see the little red schoolhouse just as it looked when we were in it—not as it would be if it existed to-day.

"We do not see the forty-year-old railroad train that way because we have been riding trains all the way from the days of forty years ago to the present time. So with the store, with the bank, with all business. We have seen the development of the business affairs, but we do not watch the development of the schools. We still think of them as they were when we knew them. This is one of the most hurtful of errors and retards progress.

"It must be the business of the parent-teacher associations to get the public acquainted with the modern school—the school that is consonant with modern business. An illustration of the foregoing is the fact that many well-meaning people still say that music, drawing and manual training are fads and foolishness—that the three R's are the fundamentals or education. As a matter of fact, the changing aspect of education is fast making the three R's dangerously near the fad of foolishness, and the music, drawing and manual training the fundamentals. If we judge by the practical, then the music, drawing and manual win. More people make their living by the use of these arts than by the use of the three R's. Inventions are running the three R's out of the business world.

"The Parent-Teacher Associations must make a survey of the town or city in order to determine what life is as the children and people of that town are living it and see that these things are taught in that town. These things should be the subject-matter for discussion at the meetings of the association.

"The problem of common education is not to dive deeper into knowledge but to scatter wider the body of common knowledge. There is enough knowledge stored up in libraries to advance the world five hundred years if it were only brought out and made world-ideas.

"Thousands of years ago your forebears ran when they heard thunder because the truth of thunder was not then a world-idea. To-day the little child does not fear thunder because the truth about it is world-known.

"The parent and the common school must learn that its task is to render special knowledge, vitally affecting life, world-wide. The problem of the common school is a problem of dissemination—not a problem of assimilation."

The large attendance and the great interest shown in this round table meeting with the leading educators of the State insures a renewed effort in forwarding the objects of the association in the coming year and a closer coöperation of the teachers and parents in the town and country. Both will be benefited thereby.

MAINE

ANNUAL CONVENTION OF MOTHERS' CONGRESS AND PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The convention met in the Bangor High School, October 26, 1917. It has seemed advisable to hold the annual meeting at the same time and place as the State Teachers' Convention, that the delegates and teachers might avail themselves of the reduced rates.

The president, Mrs. W. F. Jones, of Norway, called the meeting to order. Prayer was offered by the Rev. Mr. Capen, of the Congregationalist Church. A demonstration of the kindergarten work was given under the supervision of Miss Brown, Superintendent of Kindergarten Department. President Arthur J. Roberts spoke on "The Effect of War on Education."

He said the best preparation for college was Christian homes and emphasized the need of keeping our boys and girls in the schools. The most tragic thing in the world, he believed, is the undeveloped talent.

Mr. A. O. Thomas, Superintendent of Maine Schools, spoke on "The Necessity of Coöperation in Developing the Resources of the Child." He said in part: "I am both a teacher and a parent and look at the question from both sides.

"There were two forces to make the individual—(1) Long influences of ancestry especially parents, (2) Schools, playmates, equipments, etc. Unless there is close contact between parents and teachers we cannot have the best development in the child. Wise parents look back upon his or her family life, his people and her people, the weaknesses and failures and begin pruning out the weak points of ancestry and developing the strong points. . . . There are many lanes before the boy and girl in high school years. Parents, teachers and friends open them up and he walks through. If a child breaks his arm and it is set wrong through malpractice, it can be broken and set right. Vicious influences come into the life of the child. These cannot be easily corrected. I would rather have a child under the wrong physician than the wrong teacher. . . . I am glad for this association in the state and believe we need to coöperate in the homes and schools as never before in order to build up a clean, upright, righteous republic."

Interesting reports were given from many circles. There were twenty-five delegates present and about a hundred to listen to the program.

Mrs. Jones, who had been appointed president in place of Mrs. Adams, who had resigned last spring, declined renomination, and Mrs. Hugh

Ross Hatch, of Fairfield, was elected president for the ensuing year.

Mrs. Harry P. Townsend was elected to fill the place of Mrs. Hatch as chairman of Parent-Teacher Association.

MONTANA

The program of the Montana State Teachers' Association, which held its annual meeting in Butte, on November 26-28, gave generous and much appreciated representation to the interests of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations.

At the first general session, given over to the consideration of vocational training, Mrs. Harry B. Farnsworth, of Missoula, state president, reviewed the origin of the organization and its purpose of studying child problems and initiating furthering plans for child welfare. Emphasis was laid upon the necessity of making every effort to secure maximum efficiency in the children of the present generation, inasmuch as the burden of reconstruction after the war will fall heavily upon their shoulders.

A discussion of the Parent-Teacher Association was opened by Miss Mabel Lindstadt, superintendent of Missoula County.

Rev. T. C. Brockway, of Butte, gave the point of view of the parent. Miss Helen McCrackin, vice-president from Townsend, emphasized the mistake of making the program at Parent-Teacher Circles too general.

W. C. Tenney, ex-inspector of rural schools, testified to the value of the Parent-Teacher Association in rural schools as a basis for making the school a community center.

Mrs. Emma Dorris, of Leines, gave a most inspiring account of results accomplished in one year through the help of the Parent-Teacher Association.

The most tangible of these results were a school raised to the grade of "standard," with enough extra points to warrant the hope that it would reach the grade of "superior," home credit system throughout the district, a new well and a teacherage.

The epidemic of cigarette smoking which is sweeping over the country was discussed, and the legislative committee was instructed to investigate the possibility of better enforcement of present laws, or the advisability of recommending improved legislation. After subscriptions for the CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE had been solicited, and literature had been distributed, the meeting was adjourned.

A Parent-Teacher Circle, with a membership of 62, has been organized at Roran.

NEW JERSEY

The County Councils of the New Jersey Congress of Mothers have greatly increased the membership and the work accomplished is wonderful.

Burlington County (only organized in May) has

twenty-one associations. Many have doubled their membership. The coming together in the county conference stimulates all to better work.

Warren County has twelve associations. In Great Meadows and Vienna meetings the children of both towns are brought together several times a year, when the pupils of one school entertain the pupils of the other school. Both towns have one-room schools, but, through the influence of the Parent-Teacher Association, a fine consolidated school is being erected. The Board of Education has been entertained by many of the Parent-Teacher Associations.

Ocean County Council reports that teachers and mothers attend the meetings now without asking "Why?" and discuss freely topics of local need.

Sixteen Parent-Teacher Associations form the Camden County Council. Audubon has 150 members, has purchased a moving picture machine and organized a free library. Successful father's meetings are held in Jesse Starr School, Camden.

Laurel Springs has 100 members and their Mother-Daughter Canning Club canned 2,000 quarts. Magnolia Parent-Teacher Associations planted shade trees around the schools. Parent-Teacher Associations are becoming an important factor in the betterment of child welfare through the county.

Hunterdon County has rural schools and its Parent-Teacher Associations have helped the teachers to raise the standards of the school, so it is now recognized by the State Board of Education as the fifth standard school in New Jersey and the second in Hunterdon County.

Mercer County has 25 Parent-Teacher Associations, all doing useful work and with increasing membership.

Cumberland County includes Vineland, Millville and Bridgeton. Through the influence of the Parent-Teacher Associations Bridgeton has four well-equipped domestic science kitchens and has made a comfortable rest room for the teachers in Junior High School. Vineland Parent-Teacher Association is planning hot lunches in the high school.

Morris County.—Boonton is arranging for bi-monthly demonstrations on all matters pertaining to the home and family welfare. A dental clinic is to be established by the Parent-Teacher Associations.

Dover Parent-Teacher Association reports that the children cleaned up the school grounds, planted seeds and made flower beds so successfully that they kept the hospitals supplied with flowers. The Parent-Teacher Association equipped a playground and provided a supervisor. The Penny Provident Fund has 257 depositors and \$1,040 deposited.

Gloucester County Council met in Pitman in October. Home Culture Clubs for girls in the country are the special work of the Country Life Committee.

Home-made cookies are to be sent to the boys at Camp Dix once a month. One club reported the sending of a calendar with a snapshot picture of his mother to every boy who left that town for government service. Box luncheon with coffee, served by the hostess club, was followed by a Question Box.

Wenonah.—Myasotis Mothers' Circle holds an annual baby party and has started four bank accounts for babies of the members born during the year.

The interest and enthusiasm of all the associations in the county has been splendid.

Union County Council is comprised of thirty associations and was the second county in the state to organize a Council. Meetings convene twice a year for all-day sessions with a box luncheon, coffee being sold by the entertaining association. The Motion Picture Committee has secured fine films for children at special performances and has furnished chaperones from the Parent-Teacher Associations for those who would otherwise be unable to attend. One association reports that letters have been written by the pupils in the English Department on Why they Like the Movies. These have proved very illuminating.

One Parent-Teacher Association remembered the National Congress birthday by making a big birthday cake, selling the pieces and sending the proceeds to the National Congress of Mothers

NEW YORK

ANNUAL CONVENTION

There were 202 delegates at the annual convention, representing 95 clubs. Progress is shown in that the associations joining in were 1916-17,—; 1913, 53. In 1917, 212 associations are in membership. A fourfold growth in the four years' presidency of Mrs. Henry O. Holland.

SUGGESTIONS FOR CLUB WORK

Junior Red Cross Work.

Visiting soldiers' homes with cheer and congratulations. Patriotic work as outlined by the Department of the Interior. (Write to fifth vice-president for information).

To give protection, help and comfort to alien girls coming into this country at this time.

Many suggestions are embodied in the resolutions. Read them carefully.

CLOSING THOUGHTS FROM THE RETIRING PRESIDENT AND THE NEWLY ELECTED ONE

Mrs. Holland's closing message to the delegates was: "In these times of stress and worry it is our duty to our family to keep cheerful and make the home a sunshiny one. Cultivate the sense of humor. My last message is, 'Let us lead on softly according to the pace of the children.' Good example and influence count for more than you appreciate, more than all your scolding and admonishing; as Emerson says,

'What you are roars so loud that I cannot hear what you say.'"

Mrs. Saltford, the newly elected president, in a few words said she could not hope to take Mrs. Holland's place and should not try, but would simply do her best to serve, and asked for a little place in the hearts of the delegates.

Among the Resolutions adopted were:

Resolved, A special effort to interest country communities in the care of their school grounds, and encourage the children to cultivate school as well as home gardens wherever practicable.

Resolved, A request to all parents to urge the necessity of "safety first" being taught in all grades of the public schools, and that stricter regulations concerning speed in cities and on roads through populous districts be demanded of automobilists.

Coöperation in every way with those agencies and commissions appointed by our government, following the directions given by them in the conduct of household economies, and restrictions in dress and adornments, showing by example the necessity of retrenchment and conservation.

Recommendation to all Mothers' Clubs and Parent-Teacher Associations that they set aside one day, or some part of one day, each week for some form of patriotic work, which will be tangible evidence that hands are busy with articles of comfort and that loving thoughts follow our absent ones.

The Executive Board of the New York State Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations met in Kenwood in November.

Every section of the state was well represented.

All movements for the safeguarding of our young men and young women in this time of abnormal living were heartily endorsed.

It was particularly urged upon women of the state where the franchise has been so recently extended to them that they lose no opportunity for education in the wise use of the ballot especially where the matters pertaining to children and the home are the issue.

Albany Mothers' Club reported that they had the pleasure of entertaining the New York Federation of Women's Clubs at luncheon when that body met in their city.

Kenwood Parent-Teacher Association of Kenwood have adopted a standard home study hour which parents pledge themselves to observe. The school authorities find a very appreciable improvement in scholarship since its adoption.

Auburn Parent-Teacher Association originated a "Little Patriot Week" in connection with their Junior Red Cross Work.

A most impressive letter was addressed to every child with the result that through personal denial a large sum was secured for the purchase of materials used in Junior Red Cross Work.

The Auburn Association presented the idea to the National Junior Red Cross, through the

channel of the New York State Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations.

The 1918 annual meeting will be held in Gloversville in October.

OREGON

The Parents' Educational Bureau has registered 7,163 babies who have been examined and helped during the past year. Mrs. A. F. Flegal is managing it for the Oregon Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations.

The University of Oregon and the Oregon Agricultural College are giving much valuable assistance.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania Congress of Mothers has sustained two great losses in the past six months. The death of Mrs. E. Q. Fothergill's husband was followed by her removal to Delaware, where she has charge of the Welfare Department of the Dupont Co.—which in its munition work employs many thousand men and women.

In November the Congress sustained another heavy loss in the death of Mrs. Charles Gilpin, a vice-president of the Congress, and chairman of the Board of Trustees for Mother's Pension in Philadelphia. Mrs. Gilpin had been associated with the Pennsylvania Congress from its organization in 1899, and was one of the group of women who secured the passage of the Juvenile Court and Probation acts in 1901.

She gave her time daily to directing the Mother's Pension work in Philadelphia, and was in personal touch with the families, helping them in other than material ways. She also devoted months and years to the probation work, giving her services generously and counting among her friends hundreds of mothers whom she had counselled, helped and cheered, for her sunny disposition always saw the bright and humorous side.

Mrs. E. E. Kiernan, Somerset, Pa., first vice-president, is acting president. She has been very active in organizing Parent-Teacher Associations.

CHESTER COUNTY

Mrs. Walter Greenwood, County Chairman and a member of the State Board, reports the organization of 85 Parent-Teacher Associations in her county. She gives two evenings of every week to organizations with the determination to coöperate with the County Superintendent until every school has a Parent-Teacher Association.

The Parent-Teacher Association of Tower City, Pa., has an enrollment of 138 women and men.

Selections at our meetings from the editor's page and from the state news are read by the secretary. The CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE is then handed to the program committee, who selects articles for different members to read. We have excellent discussions on different topics of interest.

Our plan after the business routine is to have entertaining selections, readings, recitations and musical numbers. Last winter we presented moving pictures from the state films before the regular sessions. They drew crowds, who remained for the evening. We admit any one, and invite all to become members. We organized December, 1914, and have established a playground, and secured a curfew ordinance.

During 1916-1917 a lyceum course was given under our auspices, and we have secured enough guarantors for another course, 1917-1918.

The society is now agitating a school saving bank. The committee appointed to confer with the school board to devise plans for establishing the same will report December 7.

Money was voted for the purchase of trees for the school park, October 5. The trees arrived later than the regular arbor day, but interesting exercises were given by the pupils and the trees have been planted.

We live in a beautiful valley and we feel encouraged in our endeavors to improve our community.

RHODE ISLAND

Realizing that the saving of babies is a war measure in these days, the local branch of the National Congress has taken the lead in the prevention of infant mortality by teaching young mothers the best methods of caring for their children between babyhood and the school age. The department of child welfare has enlarged the policy and includes children of the so-called "neglected age."

The baby clinics have proved so helpful that the consultations now include these older children. More doctors and nurses have been added to the consulting force and consultations are held at the different schools. Assistance has been asked of the Parent-Teacher Association and clubs in making layettes for the babies and many have responded generously.

The pre-natal clinics have outgrown the experimental stage and may soon become part of the work of the lying-in hospital. These clinics coöperate with the hospital and the Congress have pledged \$500 for carrying on the work.

Every month a benefit concert is given under the auspices of the Rhode Island Congress of Mothers, one for the Camp Library Fund, another for the Providence Chapter of American Red Cross, for the purchase of yarn. The mothers' clubs form units and obtain the wool for knitting articles. All connected with the concerts volunteer their services even to the theatre and theatre employees.

Members of the Congress were very active in promotion of Liberty Loan and Food Conservation. It is believed that the sale of \$50,000 of bonds should be credited to the Congress.

When the Food Pledge Campaign was brought to a close seven districts in Providence were covered by the members of Mothers' Clubs and

in outside districts the Mothers' Clubs were equally active.

Christmas stockings for the "soldier boys" was a work of deep interest and hundreds of stockings were filled, one club filling 194 stockings and 22 boxes.

A class in "club leadership" has been formed under guidance of Mrs. James E. Cheesman, State President. The class is free to any member of the Congress.

The study of parliamentary practice forms the basis of the work.

Interest in the membership contest is increasing, many clubs reporting increase in membership. As the reward will be based upon per cent. of increase the small club has a good chance to win.

Many of the Parent-Teacher Associations have eliminated refreshments, owing to the war.

Mrs. James E. Cheesman, Mrs. Charles H. Remington, Chairman of the Congress Patriotic Committee, and Miss Clara E. Craig, member of the Section of Child Study, were guests of the Connecticut Congress at a meeting in Putnam.

Mrs. George B. Chandler recently spoke in Providence at a Rhode Island Congress meeting.

TENNESSEE

Prize Winning Account of Work Of Parent-Teacher Association

(The home and education department of the Tennessee state fair offered three prizes for the best account of the work of the Parent-Teacher Association in each of the three divisions of the state. That organization in Cookeville carried off the prize for Middle Tennessee.

The prize for East Tennessee went to Mrs. M. Deitch for an account of the work of the Moses school association, and Mrs. G. A. Laevison of Memphis captured the prize for West Tennessee.

A report of Child Welfare Circle No. 1 of Nashville made by Mrs. Alex Irvine, secretary-treasurer, won the prize for the best article on a child-welfare circle from any county in Tennessee. The prize for the best article from an affiliated association went to the West End W. C. T. U.)

To read the story of the work accomplished by the Parent-Teacher Association of Cookeville during the year of 1916-1917, one would be tempted to believe that it is a dream of a club, ideal rather than a real live organization—but it is no dream, it is a reality.

On her return from the annual convention in Bristol the delegate sent by the Cookeville association gave a most glowing account of what the women were doing throughout the state, and especially was she impressed by the great amount of good being done in the schools and how successful some of the associations were financially, saying at the time two of the organizations reported "taking in more than \$700 in one year." Her very enthusiasm and admiration for the

work done in other towns aroused the ambition and pride of the members of the Cookeville association and one of the results of sending that delegate to the annual convention is found to-day in the report of the local treasurer as follows: "Collected and expended during this year by the Cookeville Parent-Teacher Association, \$1,300.18." Cookeville was the banner association in this at the annual convention held in Winchester.

But the financial progress is the least of all to be considered. The association has grown in every respect by leaps and bounds, and to-day is recognized as the most wide-awake "ready-to-do-and-dare" organization in Cookeville among the men of women. If it is known that the Parent-Teachers are back of a move, it is an established success in the estimation of all citizens.

Under the civic department the town became clean and more sanitary, as well as more beautiful. Out of this department grew a Chrysanthemum Club of thirty members.

A new piano costing \$350 has been bought and paid for by the music department and placed in the city school. The chairman of music is now working to have music taught in the school.

Through the health and sanitation committee the school grounds have been cleaned, waste cans conveniently placed for all refuse and the rooms properly ventilated. The services of several physicians were secured gratis at the beginning of the school term and every child's mouth and throat were examined.

A special committee has had charge of the school grounds and a substantial fund has been started with which to lay off, grade and beautify the large campus, which has a natural growth of immense oaks.

There is no home economic department in the city school, but the Parent-Teacher Association appointed one of the teachers as chairman of a committee on this, and out of it has developed a class in home economics that is proving most satisfactory to all concerned. It is contemplated that this year the class shall serve a hot lunch to the pupils who wish it and thus become self-supporting.

One of the best things done by the association has been the maintaining of a rest room near the city school. This has brought town and rural communities closer and it is hoped that soon an appropriation will be made by the County Court to support this rest room which has become almost a necessity.

In the early fall it was decided that a committee should be appointed to be known as the home lyceum course and through this committee five most delightful entertainments were given, netting a large profit to the association besides bringing to the town such a man as William Jennings Bryan, who came at the invitation of one of the committee. Miss Mildred Rutherford also was a feature of this course. So suc-

cessful was this lyceum that plans have already been perfected for a similar course this season.

Vitally interested in the charity of the community, the association donated \$100 to the United Charities last winter and were instrumental in getting four blind children into the blind school and cared for their parents who were both disabled.

The idea of a canning club work in the county was conceived by members of the association, and a committee was appointed to ask for an appropriation from the county court, which was unanimously given, although others had asked before and been refused. The canning clubs are now most active and doing wonderful work, not only among the girls of the county, but among housekeepers.

When the cry of war and its needs were heard, it was the Parent-Teacher Association which took up the work first in the county. Through it sheets and handkerchiefs were pledged by all the women of the town. To the Red Cross fund the association pledged \$50.

Patriotically the association has done well, taking part in all patriotic moves, celebrating the Fourth of July in a safe and sane manner and offering prizes in the agricultural fair and field day.

The social committee has had charge of two very lovely receptions to the superintendent of the city school and his bride and to the faculty of the Polytechnic Institute. An all-day woman's conference of the Fourth district was held in August, and child-welfare day observed.

But the Cookeville association has not been satisfied to stay at home and work; it has reached out in other places and, as a result of the extension department, four very live organizations in neighboring towns have been formed, from which it is predicted great things will come.

To sum it all up, it has been a labor of love with the heartiest cooperation between parents and teachers.

VERMONT

Recommendations for the year's work given by Mrs. Huling, state president, are as follows:

I. An active membership committee which shall double the membership of each Parent-Teacher Association.

II. The use of the official organ in each association—the CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE.

III. Interest in the neglected and delinquent children of the state to the extent of notifying the probation officer.

IV. Conservation of all foodstuffs in each home and direct supervision by the mother.

At the Bennington Parent-Teacher Association Mrs. Huling gave a practical soap demonstration and expects to do this next month in at least a dozen of the towns of the state. Members brought samples and recipes of war bread, bran and rice muffins, eggless cake and cookies. Such meetings arouse interest and are certainly

most helpful in exchanging expensive recipes, which we may have used for years, for economical ones. Any one wishing for information on home-made soap can secure it by writing to Mrs. Huling.

WEST VIRGINIA

Sistersville has two Parent-Teacher Associations. The one on Main Street has accomplished so much good that we are proud of our first year's work, and hope to do more this coming year by joining the Junior Red Cross.

We have bought two Victrolas and thirty-four records. The music has helped our teachers so much in their work of teaching folk games and dances. We had a May pole dance and at the close of it, each child was given an ice cream cone by the association.

Through our Thrift Week we had excellent speakers. Our savings account each week is deposited with The Tyler County Bank. We are using the health rules with much success with hygiene.

Our Book Committee of the association had eighty-five books ordered for our use in the public library. A dictionary and stand were donated by our Board of Education. Magazines are sent from the homes each week. We are very proud of our Emergency Kitchen. A committee of four women have charge each week, donating milk, cereal, etc., and furnishing towels and aprons. The pupils in charge daily are given credit for their work. 159 breakfasts have been served and 276 two o'clock lunches of hot soup, milk and sandwiches. Pupils are charged one cent for them, setting aside this money for specials.

We have about eighty members who have had membership cards and have the CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE. We will be pleased to have any information regarding the association you can give us.

Our officers are: President, Mrs. Edwin N. Fischer; Secretary, Miss Charlotte Talbott; Treasurer and Principal, Miss Katherine Donley, and Vice-President, Mrs. Strain.

PROGRAM FOR PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS FOR JANUARY

The Programs given from month to month require the service of three members of the association for each meeting. They develop home talent, at the same time providing papers of educational value in child-nurture. They ensure a high standard for the season's meetings, and awaken wider interest in child-welfare as the members learn of the movement throughout the world.

FIRST TOPIC—Stand by Your Government and Work for It—A Word to Mothers on Training of Boys.

SECOND TOPIC (To be assigned to another member).

What Parent-Teacher Associations in other States are Doing.

THIRD TOPIC (To be assigned to third member).

Current Events Concerning Child Welfare.

May be Local, State, National or International.

List of Loan Papers in Child Nurture suitable for programs may be secured by sending 2 cent stamp to National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations, 910 Loan & Trust Building, Washington, D. C.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

News items from the States must be in the hands of the editorial board by the tenth of the previous month to ensure their appearance in the next magazine. The editorial board earnestly asks attention to the necessity of complying with this rule.

The magazine invites wider correspondence with local circles and associations. Send us reports of what you are doing. It will be helpful to others.

The necessity for brevity will be realized, as space is limited and every month more states send news. News is **WORK DONE, OR NEW WORK PLANNED**. Communications must be written with ink or typewritten.

The **CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE** offers to every **NEW** circle of fifty members one year's subscription free provided that with the application for the magazine is enclosed a receipt from state treasurer showing that dues of ten cents per capita have been paid, and second a list of officers and members with their addresses.

This offer is made to aid new circles with their program and to give them the opportunity to become acquainted with the great organized parenthood of America.

Subscribers to **CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE** should notify the publishers before the 15th of the current month if the magazine is not received. Back numbers cannot be furnished unless failure to receive the magazine is immediately noted.

Iowa: Committee on Religious Education

This committee recommends that Mothers' Circles and Parent-Teacher Associations give a definite portion of the year's program to the consideration of parents' duty in making children acquainted with necessity and methods of spiritual guidance.

The Iowa Sunday School Association has offered to Mothers' Circles and Parent-Teacher Associations the use of its literature on this subject, a splendid pamphlet prepared in collaboration with the National Congress. It contains a very select list of books for the use of parents and suggests the organization of study groups for the study of the religious training of children. A copy of this pamphlet has been sent to every affiliated association.

The teaching of formal morality in public schools as a part of the curriculum is a failure.

Germany is the one nation that enforced the study of morals in all its schools. The fundamentals of religion must be the basis for moral teaching, and these can be most successfully instilled in children of pre-school age, not only in the daily quiet hour but the daily life of the home. Without this religious training in the home, physical health and mental efficiency may be a menace rather than a blessing to civilization.

Let the mothers of Iowa learn in the hour of this world war that the greatest possession of humanity is Christian character, and that mothers are God's best tools in character building. Committee: Rev. Laura B. Galer, Mt. Pleasant, Chairman; Secretary W. D. Stem, Iowa Sunday School Association, Des Moines; Dr. A. E. Bennett, Highland Park College, Des Moines.

Parent-Teacher Circle

Written by the third daughter of one of the members of the Shiloh Parent-Teacher Association in Kansas City, Mo. They open their meeting with it.

BY ELIZABETH LEONARD

We are the Parent-Teachers
Who labor day by day
To guide our children's footsteps
Along the upward way.
Though oft we be discouraged,
Our purpose shall not fail,
For faith and prayer and courage
Will evermore prevail.

We are no more divided;
United firm we stand,
To render loyal service
To this, our native land;
So let us be true patriots,
And labor side by side
To make our sons and daughters
Our nation's joy and pride.